(a) whether it is a fact that proposals amounting to Rs. 12.30 crores of Rajasthan State under Inter-State Roads are pending for approval with Central Government;

(b) whether three estimates under Inter-State Road Scheme is pending with Government for technical approval and financial sanction;

(c) whether Government are still to release a balance fund of Rs. 2.10 crores to the State Government as per their demand; and

(d) if so, by when approval of proposals, sanction of estimate and release of balance funds Rs. 2.10 crores would be accorded by the Central Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Since 2001-02 Ministry has approved in principal 13 proposal amounting to Rs. 36.54 crore under Inter State road connectivity scheme. Out of these, ten proposals amounting to Rs. 22.42 crore have been sanctioned; two proposals amounting to Rs. 13.19 crore were returned to the State Government for modification. One proposal amounting to Rs. 0.70 crore, which was agreed in principle for widening, could not be sanctioned, since work of widening has been carried out by State Government from other resources.

(c) Funds are released depending upon the progress reports received from the State Government. So far Rs. 9.18 crore have been released for these sanctioned works.

(d) Does not arise.

Progress of GQP in Andhra Pradesh

1146. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far on the Golden Quadrilateral Project (GQP);

(b) whether the stretches of the above project falling in Andhra Pradesh have since been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time likely to be taken to complete the above said stretches of GQP as also the entire GQP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) 92.5% of the Golden Quadrilateral has been completed as on 30.06.2006.

(b) to (e) The streches falling in State of Andhra Pradesh have been completed except for a 6 km. stretch pertaining to contract package of Champavati-Srikakulam which was terminated on account of submission of forged bank guarantee by the contractor. The contract has been re-awarded for the balance work and the same is targeted to be completed by December, 2006.

96% of Golden Quadrilateral Project is targeted to be completed by December, 2006. Balance of 4% stretches are affected due to non-performance of contractor, re-awarded of terminated contracts and also award of Allahabad bypass in 2004 with completion date in 2007.

R&D Institute for transport sector

1147. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), Pune, the only model R&D Institute for road trasport sector is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any effort has been made to get the CRRI transferred to the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether any such nodal R&D Institute is proposed to be set up for road transport sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no proposal to set up any nodal R&D Institute for road transport sector.